February 29, 2000

**EXCEPTION REPORT #7**

**The quality of the results and frequent changes to the Bell Atlantic–Massachusetts standard Quality Baseline Validation Test Deck for the LSOG 2/3 release indicates that it has not undergone proper Bell Atlantic internal quality assurance testing and standards.**

**Issue**

During the Bell Atlantic–Massachusetts (BA-MA) LSOG 2/LSOG 3 release testing, KPMG has noted the results produced by BA-MA for its standard Quality Baseline Validation Test Deck and the recurring changes to the Quality Baseline Validation Test Deck.

According to the process and procedures described in Section 4.5 of the CLEC Handbook (Volume II, September 1999), the code present in the CTE during the CLEC testing period (four weeks prior production release) is supposed to have already undergone quality assurance testing and be ready for a production environment.

The table below summarizes the history and publicly published results of the LSOG 2/ LSOG 3 Quality Baseline Validation Test Deck for BA-MA.

| Date | Comment | Pre-order | | | Order | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | | Success. validated | Total cases | % success validation | Success. validated | Total cases | % success validation |
| January 10 | BA-MA test deck released | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| January 20 | BA-MA test deck released redistributed with expected results | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| January 23 | BA-MA test deck results published | 15 | 19 | 79 | 0 | 38 | 0 |
| January 27 | BA-MA test deck results published | 17 | 19 | 90 | 24 | 38 | 63 |
| January 30 | BA-MA test deck results published | 17 | 19 | 90 | 35 | 38 | 90 |
| February 3 | BA-MA test deck results published | 17 | 19 | 90 | 37 | 38 | 98 |
| February 5 | Revised test deck released (Changes made to the test deck released on January 10) | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| February 13 | BA-MA test deck results published | 18 | 19 | 95 | 38 | 38 | 100 |
| February 14 | Revised test deck released (Changes made to the test deck released on February 5) | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| February 16 | Revised test deck release (Changes made to the test deck released on February 14) | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| February 17 | BA-MA test deck results published | 19[1] | 19 | - | 38 | 38 | 100 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

In addition, the Quality Baseline Validation Test Deck has undergone three revisions since its initial release on January 10. These revisions in such a short period of time may not provide adequate time for CLECs to adjust and prepare for the scheduled release of new LSOG code.

## Assessment

The Quality Baseline Validation Test Deck results indicate that Bell Atlantic did not strictly adhere to its documented internal quality assurance procedures and testing. Given the success rate of test deck cases being validated, carriers do not have a large set of valid and functioning transactions to test their own systems with.

Revisions made to the Quality Baseline Validation Test Deck while the new release testing is in progress have not provided the CLECs with a stable environment.

The above mentioned points prevent the CLECs from carrying out full scale testing and has drastically reduced the window of time available for complete testing prior to the deployment of LSOG 2/LSOG 3 in a production environment.

All of these factors may significantly affect a CLEC's ability to test EDI interface software effectively, consume CLEC resources unnecessarily, and ultimately prevent, hinder, and/or delay a CLEC's ability to conduct business with Bell Atlantic-Massachusetts over an EDI medium.

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[1] Nine scenarios out of these 19 scenarios had an 'Output validation error'